

The motives of Roger in the auto-da-fe" which cast a dark shadow over the last months of his life are inexplicable. Ronruald declares that he sacrificed Philip to show his own orthodoxy as a most Catholic prince. Only the Arabs seem to think it was due to the Admiral's exceeding or acting without orders at Bona, but they also hint that Roger was alarmed at the rumour among his own subjects that their King was also a secret Moslem.¹ One modern authority ascribes it to Roger's being now prematurely old and failing, embittered at the death of his wife and his three eldest sons, and alarmed at the conspiracy of the two Empires against him; he sacrificed Philip to the orthodox in order to clear the old scandal from his court that it was little better than that of a Moslem prince. Another ascribes it to Roger's being at the end of his life under clerical Catholic influence* A third would clear Roger, now at the close of his life, of the responsibility, and concludes that it was William, at this time associated with his father in the kingdom, who sanctioned the auto-da-f6; Philip was the first victim of the nobility and their hatred of palace officials.^a

The reign of toleration was to last

forty years
yet, It is scarcely probable that Roger
sacrificed

* Amarf, *B.A.S.* p, 464. Ibn-d-Athir mentions
Bona and saya
"the people of Sicily murmured that the King
himself was
Moslem."

³ Amari, *S.D.M.*, m p. 441; Caspar, *Die*
Gründung, op, cit,
p, 433; Epifanio, *op. tit.*, pp. 496-8.